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10 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
11 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 MARK PUNAK, an Individual,

13 Plaintiff,

14 v.

15 THE INDOOR LAB, LLC, a California
16 limited liability company; PATRICK
17 BLATTNER, an individual; and DOES
1-20,

18 Defendants.
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Case No. 8:23-cv-01775

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER**

1 A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

2 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,
3 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public
4 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may
5 be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to
6 enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this
7 Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to
8 discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends
9 only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment
10 under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth
11 in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to
12 file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the
13 procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party
14 seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

15 B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

16 This action is likely to involve trade secrets, customer and pricing lists and
17 other valuable research, development, commercial, financial, technical and/or
18 proprietary information for which special protection from public disclosure and
19 from use for any purpose other than prosecution of this action is warranted. Such
20 confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of, among other
21 things, confidential business or financial information, information regarding
22 confidential business practices, or other confidential research, development, or
23 commercial information (including information implicating privacy rights of third
24 parties), information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may
25 be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes,
26 court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of
27 information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of
28 discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to

1 keep confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses
2 of such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their
3 handling at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order
4 for such information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that
5 information will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that
6 nothing be so designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a
7 confidential, non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part
8 of the public record of this case.

9 2. DEFINITIONS

10 2.1 Action: this pending federal lawsuit, along with any future
11 consolidated or related actions.

12 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the
13 designation of information or items under this Order.

14 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of
15 how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for
16 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in
17 the Good Cause Statement.

18 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as
19 their support staff).

20 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
21 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
22 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

23 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless
24 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
25 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced
26 or

27 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
28 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as

1 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

2 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
3 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
4 counsel.

5 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association,
6 or other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

7 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a
8 party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and
9 have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm
10 which has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

11 2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
12 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
13 support staffs).

14 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
15 Discovery Material in this Action.

16 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation
17 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
18 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
19 and their employees and subcontractors.

20 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
21 designated as "CONFIDENTIAL."

22 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery
23 Material from a Producing Party.

24 3. SCOPE

25 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
26 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
27 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
28 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or

1 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

2 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the trial
3 judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

4 4. DURATION

5 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations
6 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees
7 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be
8 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action,
9 with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and
10 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action,
11 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time
12 pursuant to applicable law.

13 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

14 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.

15 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under
16 this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that
17 qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for
18 protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written
19 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents,
20 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
21 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

22 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
23 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
24 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to
25 impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the
26 Designating Party to Sanctions.

27 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
28 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must

1 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

2 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
3 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
4 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
5 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
6 produced.

7 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

8 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic
9 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
10 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend
11 “CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that
12 contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
13 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected
14 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins)

15 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
16 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
17 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
18 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
19 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the
20 documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine
21 which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order.
22 Then, before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the
23 “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a
24 portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing
25 Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making
26 appropriate markings in the margins).

27 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party
28 identify the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the

1 deposition all protected testimony.

2 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary
3 and for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place
4 on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the
5 legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information
6 warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the
7 protected portion(s).

8 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
9 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive
10 the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such
11 material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make
12 reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the
13 provisions of this Order.

14 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

15 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a
16 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s
17 Scheduling Order.

18 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute
19 resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

20 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on
21 the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper
22 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other
23 parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating
24 Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall
25 continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is
26 entitled under the Producing Party’s designation until the Court rules on the
27 challenge.

28 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

1 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
2 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
3 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this ction. Such
4 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
5 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a
6 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL
7 DISPOSITION).

8 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
9 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
10 authorized under this Order.

11 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless
12 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
13 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
14 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

15 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as
16 well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably
17 necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

18 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of
19 the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

20 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
21 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
22 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

23 (d) the court and its personnel;

24 (e) court reporters and their staff;

25 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional
26 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
27 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

28 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a

1 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

2 (h) during their depositions, witnesses ,and attorneys for witnesses, in the
3 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party
4 requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit 1 hereto; and (2) they
5 will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign
6 the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless
7 otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of
8 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected
9 Material may be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to
10 anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

11 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
12 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

13 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED
14 IN OTHER LITIGATION

15 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
16 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as
17 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

18 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification
19 shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

20 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order
21 to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the
22 subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include
23 a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

24 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be
25 pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

26 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with
27 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this
28 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the

1 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party's
2 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking
3 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions
4 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action
5 to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

6 9. A NON-PARTY'S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE
7 PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

8 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a
9 Non-Party in this Action and designated as "CONFIDENTIAL." Such information
10 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
11 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
12 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

13 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
14 produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
15 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's
16 confidential information, then the Party shall:

17 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-
18 Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality
19 agreement with a Non-Party;

20 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
21 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably
22 specific description of the information requested; and

23 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the
24 Non-Party, if requested.

25 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within
26 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party
27 may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery
28 request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall

1 not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the
2 confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court.
3 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and
4 expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

5 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

6 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
7 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this
8 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in
9 writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best
10 efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the
11 person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of
12 this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment
13 and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

14 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
15 PROTECTED MATERIAL

16 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
17 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other
18 protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal
19 Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify
20 whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for
21 production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence
22 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure
23 of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work
24 product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated
25 protective order submitted to the court.

26 12. MISCELLANEOUS

27 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of
28 any person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

1 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
 2 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
 3 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in
 4 this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on
 5 any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective
 6 Order.

7 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
 8 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material
 9 may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
 10 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
 11 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the
 12 information in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

13. FINAL DISPOSITION

14 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
 15 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must
 16 return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As
 17 used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts,
 18 compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the
 19 Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the
 20 Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if
 21 not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that
 22 (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was
 23 returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any
 24 copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or
 25 capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel
 26 are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial,
 27 deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition
 28 and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert

1 work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such
2 archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this
3 Protective Order as set forth in Section 4.

4 14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate
5 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary
6 sanctions.

7
8 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

9 Dated: March 18, 2024

10 CALLAHAN, THOMPSON, SHERMAN &
11 CAUDILL, LLP

12 By: 

13 Lee Sherman, Esq.
14 Attorney for Plaintiff
15 MARK PUNAK

16 Dated: March 18, 2024

17 EACH LEGAL, PC

18 By: /s/ Laura D. Each

19 Laura D. Each
20 Attorney for Defendant
21 THE INDOOR LAB, LLC

22 Dated: March 25, 2024

23 

24 Honorable Karen E. Scott
25 United States Magistrate Judge
26
27
28

1 Dated: March 18, 2024

LOEB & LOEB

2
3 By: /s/ Terry Garnett

4 Terry Garnett

5 Attorney for Defendant

PATRICK BLATTNER

EXHIBIT A**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____
 [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its
 entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the
 United States District Court for the Central District of California on [date] in the
 case of _____ **Punak v. The Indoor Lab et al Case No. 8:23-cv-**
01775. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated
 Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could
 expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly
 promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is
 subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict
 compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for
 the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this
 Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after
 termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____ [print or type
 full name of _____ [print or type full address
 and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection
 with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated
 Protective Order.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____